

REMARKS

In response to an Office Action dated August 10, 2005, in which the Examiner issued a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment stating that the Applicants' newly submitted claims 53-83 were drawn to a non-elected embodiment, the Applicants responded with new claims 53-100, but neglected to cancel previously submitted claims 53-83. During a Telephone Communication on October 24, 2005, the Examiner pointed out the purported error, in response to which the Applicants herewith cancel claims 53-83 and submit new claims 84-131 which mirror claims 53-100, and are renumbered, as required by the Examiner. The Applicants submit that the renumbered claims 84-131 fall within the scope of the elected invention previously selected by the Applicants.

Moreover, claims 1-24 and 29-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over a combination of an article "Searching for .COM-ponents" by Harbert (Harbert), a press release "DesignWin Upgrade Tackles Key OEM Supply Chain Management Issues" (DesignWin), and U.S. Patent No. 5,712,985 issued to Johnson et al. (Johnson). It is respectfully submitted that new claims 84-131 are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons presented herein. No new matter has been entered. Support for new claims 84-131 may be found throughout the specification and within the drawings.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-24 and 29-52 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over a combination of Harbert, DesignWin, and Johnson. As indicated above, claims 1-83 have been cancelled and new claims 84-131 presented for consideration. The Applicants' submit that new claims 84-131 are patentable over Harbert, DesignWin, and Johnson because none of Harbert, DesignWin, and Johnson, either alone or in combination, teach or make obvious each of the elements recited in Applicants' claims 84-131.

New claims 84, 97, 108, and 121 recite methods and storage mediums for managing a supply chain within a multi-enterprise environment. Claims 84, 97, 108, and 121 recite specifically "identifying purchase prices of components that are incurred by the at least one supply chain entity that manufactures products using the components, the products subject to

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purchase by the manufacturing enterprise under an agreement with the at least one supply chain entity;

comparing the purchase prices incurred by the at least one supply chain entity with purchase prices available to the manufacturing enterprise for the same components from a component supplier;

for components in which the at least one supply chain entity incurs a purchase price greater than the purchase price available to the manufacturing enterprise, generating and transmitting to the component supplier a request to authorize the at least one supply chain entity to purchase a quantity of the component from the component supplier at the purchase price available to the manufacturing enterprise;

in response to an affirmative response by the component supplier, generating and transmitting an authorization letter to the at least one supply chain entity, the authorization letter authorizing the at least one supply chain entity to purchase the component directly from the component supplier.”

None of these elements are taught or made obvious by Harbert, DesignWin, and Johnson, either alone or in combination. In particular, none of the cited references teach or make obvious requesting authorization from a component supplier to provide prices for selected components to the supply chain entity that performs manufacturing activities for a manufacturer under an agreement. Nor does any of the cited references teach or make obvious providing authorization to the supply chain entity to purchase the selected components directly from the component supplier in response to approval of the request for authorization. For at least these reasons, the Applicants submit that claims 84, 97, 108, and 121 are patentable over Harbert, DesignWin, and Johnson. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections of claims 84, 97, 108, and 121.

Claims 85-96 depend from what should be an allowable claim 84, claims 98-107 depend from what should be an allowable claim 97, claims 109-120 depend from what should be an allowable claim 108, and claims 122-131 depend from what should be an allowable claim 121. For at least these reasons, the Applicants submit that claims 85-96, 98-107, 109-120, and 122-131 are also patentable over Harbert, DesignWin, and Johnson. Reconsideration of the

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outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been entered and no additional fees are believed to be required.
However, if any fees are due with respect to this Amendment, please charge them to Deposit
Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

CANTOR COLBURN LLP

By Marisa J. Dubuc
Marisa J. Dubuc
Registration No. 46,673
Customer No. 29371

Date: October 25, 2005
Address: 55 Griffin Road South, Bloomfield, CT 06002
Telephone: (860) 286-2929
Fax: (860) 286-0115